



Reference No. 6.37

# WAGE RATES INDEXES : OCTOBER 1974 (PRELIMINARY STATEMENT)

## MAIN FEATURES

In the twelve months ended October 1974 the wage rates indexes for Australia increased by:

- 33 per cent to \$101.83 a week for adult males
- 45 per cent to \$89.35 a week for adult females

The average adult female wage rate at the end of October was 88 per cent of the adult male rate, compared with 81 per cent in October 1973.

Major increases in October affecting the wage rates indexes included —

- Increase of \$9 a week to building and construction workers in all States.
- Shop assistants award increases in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.
- Increases to watchmen, caretakers and cleaners in New South Wales.
- Movement toward full equal pay for female clerks in Victoria.
- Transport workers State award increases in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

This statement contains figures of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females for October 1974 and corresponding figures for some earlier months. More information on these statistics will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates and Earnings* (Reference No. 6.16) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. Because the indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from salaries, those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for July 1973 and subsequent months are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

TABLE 1. — WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES  
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of —	Adult males (b)					Adult females (c)				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates \$	Annual change(d) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates \$	Annual change(d) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)
1973 —										
October	76.44	15.6	270.6	190.53	269.3	61.79	20.2	310.4	155.75	310.4
November	77.02	15.5	272.7	192.02	271.4	63.12	22.0	317.0	159.10	317.1
December	77.63	14.7	274.9	193.63	273.7	64.99	24.9	326.5	163.83	326.5
1974 —										
January	78.29	14.8	277.2	195.33	276.1	66.12	25.6	332.2	166.68	332.2
February	78.57	14.3	278.2	196.06	277.1	66.54	26.0	334.2	167.72	334.3
March	79.48	15.4	281.4	198.40	280.4	66.80	26.0	335.6	168.39	335.6
April	85.02	23.1	301.0	212.63	300.5	69.83	30.0	350.8	176.02	350.8
May	92.51	26.2	327.6	230.57	325.9	76.83	31.6	385.9	193.66	386.0
June	94.17	26.4	333.5	234.86	332.0	80.25	36.4	403.1	202.30	403.2
July	96.02	28.3	340.0	239.59	338.6	83.04	39.8	417.1	209.33	417.2
August	96.51	27.7	341.7	240.83	340.4	85.72	43.4	430.6	216.09	430.7
September	100.28	32.0	355.1	250.52	354.1	87.75	45.1	440.8	221.20	440.9
October	101.83	33.2	360.6	254.48	359.7	89.35	44.6	448.8	225.23	448.9

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes above. (b) Excludes rural industry. Hourly rates also exclude shipping and stevedoring. The former is not included in the wage rates index and for the latter definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates are not available. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction. (d) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (e) Base : Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.



TABLE 2. — WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 OCTOBER 1974 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Rates of wage (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (d)	128.25	96.70	118.58	100.23	90.52	93.05	116.38	48.5	412.1
Manufacturing —									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	95.78	100.05	108.77	97.55	95.82	97.60	98.38	36.1	348.3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	91.27	91.87	94.59	89.45	95.10	86.51	91.66	27.1	324.5
Food, drink and tobacco	97.75	96.69	99.24	96.02	93.25	97.13	97.39	30.9	344.8
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	94.86	93.35	103.81	95.48	91.12	90.99	95.72	33.8	338.9
Paper, printing, etc.	101.09	106.08	110.45	100.49	106.13	93.01	103.23	28.7	365.5
Other manufacturing	96.01	98.04	102.91	95.89	94.63	92.02	97.03	30.6	343.6
All manufacturing groups	96.01	98.14	104.31	96.80	94.94	94.54	97.56	33.0	345.4
Building and construction	99.23	115.50	109.70	104.20	102.95	98.27	105.72	34.6	374.3
Railway services	99.85	95.84	114.22	99.78	88.77	101.49	101.57	42.4	359.6
Road and air transport	103.86	103.21	101.30	100.36	103.14	102.16	102.95	36.2	364.5
Shipping and stevedoring (e)	118.47	117.91	112.08	110.33	118.86	115.31	116.13	23.8	411.2
Communication	122.79	124.58	122.13	122.20	123.75	119.57	123.10	20.9	435.9
Wholesale and retail trade	103.68	105.61	101.89	99.68	99.69	97.00	103.06	33.1	364.9
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	99.99	100.99	106.37	92.85	90.08	104.77	99.83	27.7	353.5
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	97.49	95.74	90.54	91.66	84.28	88.26	94.54	33.8	334.7
All industry groups (f)	101.03	102.53	107.11	99.66	97.77	98.13	101.83	33.2	360.6

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) For mining, rates of wage used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (e) Includes rates of wage (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers. (f) Excludes rural industry.

TABLE 3. — WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 OCTOBER 1974 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Rates of wage (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Manufacturing —									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	93.31	94.17	89.83	84.99	86.39	84.85	92.27	46.6	463.5
Textiles, clothing and footwear	81.79	80.45	80.04	79.93	82.68	76.74	80.91	44.7	406.4
Food, drink and tobacco	92.22	89.47	85.55	81.80	72.31	88.08	88.57	51.9	444.9
Other manufacturing	88.76	89.09	88.64	82.05	85.87	83.61	88.27	51.4	443.4
All manufacturing groups	87.08	85.07	84.22	82.38	81.47	82.25	85.53	47.5	429.6
Transport and communication	93.76	97.66	100.79	96.57	96.49	103.83	96.60	40.9	485.2
Wholesale and retail trade	99.55	97.66	91.23	88.30	90.78	82.61	95.74	44.9	480.9
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	89.18	95.49	92.09	79.17	81.49	86.08	90.26	36.4	453.4
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	90.54	86.81	75.78	83.84	78.36	82.15	86.12	42.4	432.6
All industry groups (d)	91.18	89.42	87.84	85.19	85.47	83.78	89.35	44.6	448.8

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.



TABLE 4. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a)(\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of —	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (b)									
1973 —									
October	76.43	76.72	77.89	74.29	75.33	76.20	76.61	76.25	76.44
November	77.11	76.91	79.67	74.49	75.45	76.25	76.78	77.29	77.02
December	78.05	77.37	79.81	75.18	75.63	76.57	77.23	78.06	77.63
1974 —									
January	78.29	78.11	81.70	75.86	76.13	76.83	77.45	79.20	78.29
February	78.68	78.36	81.80	76.03	76.51	77.01	77.65	79.57	78.57
March	80.06	78.46	83.64	76.26	77.18	77.68	78.60	80.43	79.48
April	85.93	85.37	85.14	82.95	81.71	83.28	86.93	82.96	85.02
May	93.34	91.71	94.77	90.23	89.35	92.81	93.80	91.11	92.51
June	94.35	94.56	96.43	91.90	90.28	93.81	95.46	92.78	94.17
July	95.76	97.09	98.67	93.23	92.15	94.89	96.63	95.37	96.02
August	95.88	97.60	100.00	94.12	92.50	95.13	97.00	95.98	96.51
September	99.52	101.03	105.18	98.37	95.51	97.78	101.99	98.43	100.28
October	101.03	102.53	107.11	99.66	97.77	98.13	102.55	101.06	101.83
ADULT FEMALES (c)									
1973 —									
October	63.69	60.93	59.55	58.77	61.84	59.17	59.59	63.65	61.79
November	65.79	61.23	62.41	59.11	62.28	59.41	60.08	65.70	63.12
December	67.99	62.70	63.93	62.03	63.50	60.86	62.54	67.07	64.99
1974 —									
January	68.39	64.19	65.78	64.27	65.09	62.32	63.21	68.60	66.12
February	68.63	65.01	65.83	64.67	65.16	62.61	63.34	69.26	66.54
March	68.80	65.13	66.78	64.95	65.56	63.22	63.64	69.49	66.80
April	71.75	68.80	69.04	67.74	67.27	65.60	69.15	70.41	69.83
May	81.08	74.30	72.74	72.83	73.69	74.35	75.11	78.28	76.83
June	82.51	80.47	75.52	77.80	75.41	76.27	78.07	82.11	80.25
July	86.22	82.44	78.70	79.06	77.88	78.08	78.64	86.79	83.04
August	88.34	85.27	84.15	81.63	79.30	79.22	83.01	88.03	85.72
September	89.73	87.12	87.74	83.61	83.62	83.15	85.65	89.53	87.75
October	91.18	89.42	87.84	85.19	85.47	83.78	85.86	92.32	89.35

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Excludes rural industry. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.

J. G. MILLER  
Acting Commonwealth Statistician

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2055 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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